

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 24, 2022

The Honorable Lloyd J. Austin
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

The Honorable Frank Kendall
Secretary of the Air Force
United States Air Force
HQ USAF
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20330-1670

Secretary Austin and Secretary Kendall,

We write today to express our strong support for the inclusion of \$30 million in the Fiscal Year 2023 budget request for the acquisition of a 133-acre plot of land adjacent to Tinker Air Force Base for the forthcoming B-21 depot maintenance campus.

As you know, the B-21 Raider is the most advanced long-range stealth bomber and will provide critical capabilities needed to deter our nation's adversaries. Timely construction of the B-21 depot maintenance campus at Tinker Air Force Base is vital to keeping this aircraft in the air and on mission. For the Air Force to meet its timeline to design and construct the B-21 campus in time to service the fleet, this land acquisition must occur in FY2023.

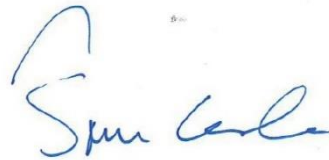
It's worth noting that without this land acquisition, the next best alternative identified by the Air Force would cost approximately \$285 million in additional expenses over the program's life cycle and could involve significant environmental permitting delays. On the other hand, the investment of \$30 million today will bring with it significant cost savings over the long term. Acquisition of this land for the B-21 campus is an opportunity that we should seize without delay. Again, we urge you to include \$30 million in the FY2023 budget request to acquire the land needed for the B-21 depot maintenance campus.

Thank you for your attention to this request and please don't hesitate to contact us directly if we can provide additional information.

Sincerely,



STEPHANIE BICE
Member of Congress



TOM COLE
Member of Congress